**Washington state receives grant to promote fatherhood involvement**

A grant intended to help increase inclusion of fathers in development of state policies and programs supporting children and families has been awarded to Washington state.

Washington is one of 12 states to receive $10,000 from the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network (FRPN) to promote adoption of holistic policies and services to improve father involvement in the lives of their children and families.

"We're very excited and honored to receive this grant," said Frontiers of Innovation Project Director Anne Stone. "This grant will allow us to involve a wide array of stakeholders, including administrators in key state agencies such as child support and child welfare, to conduct planning activities aimed at improving father involvement and generating more reliable funding for community-based fatherhood programs."

FRPN Co-Directors Jessica Pearson, Ph.D., and Jay Fagan, Ph.D., will provide grantees with technical assistance and evaluate the planning efforts.

"Programs and policies developed by states frequently influence levels of father involvement," Pearson said. "This funding serves as an opportunity to look at how human services agencies treat fathers, educate stakeholders on the important role fathers have in their children's lives, reduce barriers to paternal engagement and develop ways to fund fatherhood services."

In 2018, Frontiers of Innovation organized the Washington State Fatherhood Summit, which drew upon the experience of a diverse group of individuals to create and commit to a statewide fatherhood plan to strengthen fatherhood programs, leadership, systems and policies.

The summit created a forum to explore the changing picture of fatherhood in our state by examining data trends, best and promising practices, and listening to father's voices to create immediate next steps around how local partners might work together differently based upon what they heard and learned.